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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 16, 1998.

I hereby designate the Honorable FRED UPTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

With the psalmist of biblical times we wish to begin our day by making a joyful noise to You, O God, by serving You with gladness and by coming into Your presence with singing. We know too that there are times when there is no singing, no gladness and our voices are muted with uncertainty. At all the moments of life may we sing the words of Isaac Watts, "O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come." O God, may Your good spirit of thanksgiving and gladness enter each person's heart and may Your reconciling blessing touch us day by day with peace and mercy and love. In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MENENDEZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 1-minutes on each side.

THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES OF FORGIVEN SIN

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, there have been numerous discussions on God's ability to forgive sin. All sin. Forgiveness through Christ is complete. Absolute.

However, the bible is replete with the consequences of forgiven sin. Follow the children of Israel as they take their 11-day journey to the promised land, only to be turned back, forced to wander for another 40 years. King David's illicit relationship with Bathsheba ended in the death of his child and the challenge to the throne by another child. The thief on the cross asked and received forgiveness, but he still died on the cross for his transgression.

There are consequences of forgiven sin.

SAUDI ARABIA MUST TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR DEBTS

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, Hill International is a New Jersey company who has sought to resolve a \$55 million claim with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia dating from the 1970s for work performed on a power and desalinization plant.

There is no question that the work was finished, because the plant is in operation today. The issue is whether or not the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Prince Bandar will step forward and pay for the services they received.

Now, I come to the floor today, with many of my colleagues, out of sheer frustration. After 3 years of asking, Members have not been able to get a meeting with Prince Bandar. Our government should stand up for U.S. companies and citizens who are economically hurt by foreign countries.

How long will Members of Congress have to wait before we can have a meeting? Prince Bandar and Crown Prince Abdullah will be in Washington in just a few days. I hope that they will honor our long-standing request for a meeting and, more importantly, I hope that Saudi Arabia will meet its obligation to pay for what work was done, as is observed under international rules and law.

Saudi Arabia should pay the claim of this U.S. company who did the work and should be paid.

HILL INTERNATIONAL DESERVES TO BE PAID FOR WORK DONE

(Mr. SAXTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, just as the previous speaker, I rise on behalf of one of my constituents, Hill International, a company which has fought for over a decade to collect a debt from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is an

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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unpaid debt which has been unfairly withheld.

In the early 1980s, a subsidiary of Hill International, Gibbs & Hill, successfully completed a desalinization plant in Yanbu City, Saudi Arabia, yet were never paid the \$55 million due them for the work. Despite all the work put in by Members of Congress to encourage the settlement of this claim, and despite repeated promises that the claim would be paid, the kingdom of Saudi Arabia has yet to pay this overdue bill.

I also find it troubling that our own administration has been unable or unwilling to actively assist the U.S. company against a foreign government. Where is the State Department in this fight?

Fifty-five million dollars may seem like spare change to the Saudis, but it means something to Hill International, just as it would any hardworking company of the United States. I rise to say that I will not rest until the debt is paid.

SAUDI ARABIA NEEDS TO RESOLVE U.S. COMPANY'S CLAIM OF UNPAID DEBT

(Mr. DEUTSCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I, too, join my two previous colleagues on the floor this morning, really out of absolute frustration. I came to the House 6 years ago and was involved in trying to help resolve this claim by Hill International with the Saudi Government. And here, for me personally, 6 years later, we are still at that point.

This is the only one of 19 claims filed against the Saudi Government by American companies in the 1980s that still remains unpaid. Over the last 5 years, literally dozens of Members of Congress have vocalized their support for resolution of this final claim but have received nothing but empty promises from Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the United States, Prince Bandar.

A former member of this chamber, Bill Emerson, in 1995, met with Ambassador Bandar and was asked to broker a compromise agreement to the claim. Despite Representative Emerson's diligent efforts to implement this compromise before his passing, Ambassador Bandar has refused to honor this gentleman's agreement.

Over the last year, Prince Bandar has repeatedly committed to meet with the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. JO ANN EMERSON) in an effort to conclude this matter, but has been unwilling to set a date. How long must this American company continue to wait? We need to get this settlement resolved.

AMERICA NEEDS A NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, there are few issues which separate liberals and conservatives in dramatic fashion. Taxes, of course, is one; and crime is another. But defense and national security issues also illustrate two sharply different visions, different world views, which distinguished conservatives from liberals.

Liberals just love arms control agreements. They put almost boundless faith in a piece of paper between America and countries which are hostile to everything we hold dear, and they take great comfort in the ability that these agreements are going to keep America safe.

Conservatives, on the other hand, look at all of human history and are skeptical of such agreements, instead placing stronger and greater faith in a strong and secure defense.

Given these two world views it is time to reexamine our current vulnerability to ballistic missile attack. There is a piece of paper that exists to assure us that America is safe from a ballistic missile attack, but this is deliberate policy of vulnerability to ballistic missile attack and it is both foolish and dangerous.

It is time that conservatives act with prudence and demand that Americans be protected by building a strong national missile defense system.

NEW REPORT INDICATES WHAT U.S. STUDENTS DO NOT KNOW

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a new report says that American students just do not know: 70 percent do not know the name of the Vice President; 40 percent do not know the three branches of government; 25 percent do not know what the fifth amendment means; and only 2 percent know the name of the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

On the other hand, 99 percent know Michael Jordan, 99 percent know Mark McGwire, and 60 percent of American teenagers can cite all three names of the Three Stooges. Is it any wonder American students rank 14th around the world in achievement test scores?

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. It is a sad day when more teenagers know Monica Lewinsky than Judge Rehnquist. And it is a sadder day when more teenagers know Larry, Moe, and Curly than reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Think about that one.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, we are all concerned about educating our Nation's children. For 30 years the Federal Government has been cre-

ating big Federal programs to try to improve education. It has resulted in lower scores and more bureaucracy.

Federal education dollars should go directly to the classroom and to teachers, not to State and Federal education bureaucracies. By passing H.R. 3248, Dollars To The Classroom, we can send these dollars to teachers who know the names of our kids.

The Dollars to the Classroom Act block grants 35 K-through-12 education programs and requires that 95 percent of these funds are made available to kids and teachers in the classroom. Under the Dollars to the Classroom Act, \$800 million more will be spent directly on classrooms in America. That is almost \$10,000 per school, \$425 for each classroom.

Just imagine what our teachers could do with an additional \$425 to spend directly on their students' learning each year. Pass Dollars to the Classroom.

AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE ASKING CONGRESS WHAT THEY ARE NOT DOING

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, there are 37 members of the Committee on the Judiciary, about 8 percent of this Congress. That leaves 398 Members of the House that could be working on some other matters. Yet today, September 16, 2 weeks before the end of the Federal fiscal year, incredibly, there is no budget. Months late.

Over 70 percent of the American public are in some kind of managed care plan, and yet this Congress has not passed a meaningful Patients' Bill of Rights to protect them.

Russia is falling apart, the Asian economy is in the tank, South America is teetering, and every American who has a stock thrift plan has seen their retirement drop 15 to 20 percent in the last few weeks, and yet no congressional action.

The Committee on the Judiciary's job may be to investigate whether something was done, but the American people should be looking at Congress and asking about what is not being done.

USING SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS FOR TAX CUTS IS WRONG

(Mr. NEUMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to talk about a very important issue. I just left a Republican conference, and they talked about a dynamite tax cut bill, and I think most Americans would support this tax cut proposal with the exception of one very important detail: Instead of finding spending reductions so we can reduce spending and reduce taxes, this time,